

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 308
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to recognize Chief Emmett Turner on the occasion of his retirement from the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department and to congratulate him upon his appointment as State Fire Marshal.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those public servants who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Chief Emmett Turner is one such estimable citizen who has served with distinction for 34 years with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department; having served as Police Chief for the past seven years, he will soon retire from law enforcement to commence employment as the Assistant Commissioner of Fire Prevention and State Fire Marshal in the Department of Commerce and Insurance; and

WHEREAS, in his new position, Chief Turner will oversee all aspects of fire prevention at the state level, including the Tennessee Fire Services and Codes Enforcement Academy, the Bomb and Arson Squad, Codes Enforcement, Electrical Inspections and Manufactured Housing regulations; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Carver High School, Tennessee State University and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Academy, Chief Emmett Turner served his country with great valor in the United States Army before joining the Nashville police force in 1969; and

WHEREAS, throughout the tenure of his illustrious career, Chief Turner has been an exemplar of honest and industrious public service and effective law enforcement, serving as a Youth Enforcement Officer, School Resource Officer, Sexual Abuse Sergeant, Planning and Research Lieutenant, Patrol Lieutenant, Patrol Captain, Police Major and Assistant Chief of Police prior to becoming the fifth Police Chief in Metropolitan Nashville's history; and

WHEREAS, in January 1996, Chief Emmett Turner was promoted to Chief of Police, the duties of which position he has fulfilled to near perfection; under his leadership, overall crime in Nashville has dropped nine percent, and murder, robbery, burglary, larceny and auto theft have dipped to multi-year lows; and

WHEREAS, during Chief Turner's tenure, crime-fighting partnerships have been expanded throughout the city; Nashville can now boast of having more than 130 organized Neighborhood Watch Groups; and

WHEREAS, indicative of the commitment of Chief Emmett Turner and Mayor Bill Purcell to fully staff the Police Department, Metropolitan Nashville now has more police officers than ever before; and

WHEREAS, under Chief Turner's able direction, the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department has expanded the number of officers in the school system to include all public high schools and middle schools and increased the number of officers teaching in the Gang Resistance Education and Training program; and

WHEREAS, the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. reaccredited the Metro Police Department in both 1999 and 2002; and

WHEREAS, Chief Emmett Turner has been instrumental in securing numerous improvements for the department: he facilitated the equipment of each patrol car with a laptop computer; he oversaw the site selection, construction and opening of the new Hermitage

Precinct; he persuaded the United States Treasury Department to place the Integrated Ballistics Identification System with the department; and he oversaw the reform of the Police Department's internal affairs component, now called the Office of Professional Accountability; and

WHEREAS, he has maintained strong working relationships with various federal law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service; and

WHEREAS, ever dedicated to excellence in law enforcement, Chief Emmett Turner has participated in numerous professional development programs, including the National Executive Institute of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Dignitary Protection Seminar of the U.S. Secret Service; and

WHEREAS, Chief Turner is an active and important part of his community, participating in professional and civic organizations too numerous to list, but including the Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts, the Board of Directors of 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee, Inc., the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE), Leadership Nashville, the Advisory Board of Our Kids, Inc., the Steering Committee of Nashville's Agenda, the Board of Directors of the YMCA, the Mayor's Crime Committee Task Force, the Board of Directors of the Special Olympics of Tennessee, the Law Enforcement Advisory Board of D.A.R.E. America and the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts; and

WHEREAS, for his remarkable dedication to the public welfare, Chief Emmett Turner has been honored with awards also too numerous to list, but including the Prominent Achiever's Award from Tennessee State University, the Award for Outstanding Services and Extraordinary Achievements from the National Alumni Association of Tennessee State University, the 1996 Nashvillian of the Year Award from the *Nashville Scene*, the Man of the Year Award for Outstanding Service from the Nashville Club of the National Association of Negro Business and

Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., the 1997 Service Award from the Coalition for the Success of the African-American Male, the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Center on Aging at Tennessee State University and the Distinguished Service Award from the Drug Enforcement Agency of the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, Chief Turner exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Chief Turner is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Patty, their four children, Kim Turner, Stephanie Knight, Kimberly Garrett and Kristen Garrett, and their three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Chief Emmett Turner has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of Mayor Bill Purcell, his colleagues in Metro government, the valiant officers of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department and the public at large; his impact on the Nashville community has been far-reaching and will be long lasting; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Chief Emmett Turner for his remarkable career with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department and extend to him our best wishes for his continued success as State Fire Marshal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.